

Message Text

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10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 FMC-04 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 L-03 AID-20 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /092 W
----- 014234

R 210905 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2719
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KAMPALA 2029

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRD EIND EGEN UG KE

SUBJECT: UGANDA' S IMPORTS HELD UP IN MOMBASA

1. ACCORDING TO KENYA AND UGANDA PRESS REPORTS, MANY UGANDA BOUND IMPORTS ARE SITTING IDLE IN MOMBASA AS KENYA FREIGHT FORWARDERS REFUSE TO FORWARD THE GOODS. FORWARDERS CLAIM THEY ARE OWED THOUSANDS OF SHILLINGS FOR SERVICES AND REFUSE TO HANDLE ANY MORE CARGO TILL THEY ARE PAID.

2. GOU OFFICIALS ARE REPORTEDLY NEGOTIATING WITH PORT AUTHORITIES FOR RELEASE OF THE GOODS TO GOU, WHICH WILL MEET ALL CUSTOMS CHARGES. THE GOODS (CONSIGNED MOSTLY TO DEPARTED ASIANS) WILL BE SOLD BY THE GOU TO TRADERS. RECEIPTS FROM GOU SALES WOULD THEN BE USED TO PAY CUSTOMS AND OTHER CHARGES.

3. THE GOU TOOK SIMILAR ACTION SEVERAL MONTHS AGO WITH RESPECT TO GOODS IN BONDED WAREHOUSES IN KAMPALA. GOODS WERE RELEASED TO THE GOU, WHICH IN TURN SOLD THEM TO TRADERS, COLLECTING CUSTOMS DUTIES AND SALES TAXES RATHER THAN THE COST OF THE MERCHANDISE. THE GOU HAD ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOODS WERE CONSIGNED TO DEPARTED ASIANS AND NEW BUSINESSMEN WERE NOT LIABLE FOR THE STORAGE AND OTHER CHARGES INCURRED BY THE PREVIOUS OWNERS.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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